

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24-26 and 28-30 under 35 USC § 102(b), and rejected claims 1-18, 27 and 31-35 under 35 USC § 103(a). These rejections are fully traversed below. In addition, the Examiner stated that claims 19-23 recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 18, 19, 24, 28 and 29 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. In this regard, claim 19 has been placed in substantially independent form. Since claim 19 was identified as reciting allowable subject matter, it is submitted that claim 19 is now in condition for allowance. Further, it is submitted that dependent claims 18 and 20-23 are also in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 24, 28 and 29 have also been amended to substantially include the limitations of claim 19. As such, it is submitted that claims 24, 25, 28 and 29 are also in condition for allowance.


In addition, to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1-17, 26, 27 and 30-35 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice or disclaimer. However, it should be noted that Applicants do not acquiesce, admit or otherwise agree to the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 18-25, 28 and 29 remain pending. Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. AUD1P008).

Respectfully submitted,
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